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Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

Letter dated 30 August 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In reference to paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 61/31 of 4 December 2006, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite States to inform him of their views with respect to any measures needed or already taken to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as well as missions and representatives with diplomatic status to international intergovernmental organizations, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a report on the measures that have been taken by the State of Qatar in this respect (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 76.

(*Signed*) Mutlaq Majed **Al-Qahtani**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

07-50616 (E) 190907 190907

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[Original: Arabic]

Measures taken by the State of Qatar to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

We wish to report that the Ministry of the Interior is responsible for the protection, security and safety, through measures taken by the Ministry's competent directorate (General Escort Directorate), of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives against any acts that might cause damage to diplomatic missions, representatives or their places of residence. Such measures are as follows:

1. The competent directorate assigns permanent round-the-clock guards and patrols to the headquarters of embassies, consulates, ambassadors' residences and residential compounds inhabited by diplomatic and consular representatives. In addition, it conducts round-the-clock military and civilian mobile patrols at such headquarters and facilities connected with them, such as schools, residential complexes and places of worship. It also exercises the principle of reciprocity with respect to numerous States, in particular the major industrialized States, as required by countries' interests and the public interest at both the local and international levels.

2. Security for religious events and official and unofficial gatherings held by members of the diplomatic corps at embassy headquarters or in homes is ensured, with direct coordination through a liaison officer designated by the competent directorate specifically for that purpose, under the supervision of the head of the directorate and the instructions of Public Security.

3. In the case of reports received by the Directorate from the guards provided by it concerning incidents that are not of a level that might be considered as constituting grave violations; individual cases that involve suspicion or the photographing of places where "No trespassing or photographing" signs are posted; disputes with control personnel; the gathering of workers in front of the headquarters of their embassy or consulate; or transgressions by persons suffering from mental disorders who attempt to gain unauthorized access to the buildings of diplomatic missions, Directorate officers seek to contain such incidents promptly in coordination with the competent security agencies and the department of protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in coordination with Public Security and to prevent any problems from occurring.

From the foregoing one can see that the measures in question are adequate and apposite and in keeping with international obligations.

It should be borne in mind that the Ministry and the embassies have coordinated the designation by the latter of the responsible officials and their telephone numbers for the purposes of coordination in the event of any such incident.